

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 298

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James T. Marshall for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as President of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is attorney James Thomas (Tom) Marshall of Clinton, who was hired in 1986 as an assistant public defender in the 7th Judicial District as part of the District Public Defenders Conference pilot project; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Mr. Marshall was appointed by Governor Ned McWherter to serve the citizens of Anderson County as Public Defender for the 7th Judicial District, and in 1990, he was elected by the citizens of Anderson County for an eight-year term, winning reelection to that distinguished position in 1998, 2006, and 2014; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a leader by his peers and colleagues, Tom Marshall is currently serving his second term as the president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, having previously served as vice president, secretary-treasurer, and a member of the executive committee and other notable committees for the conference. Additionally, he has served as chairman of the Conference Audit Committee since its formation in 2006; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, Mr. Marshall has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to this State; and

WHEREAS, born in Rocky Mountain, North Carolina, in 1952, Mr. Marshall earned his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Wake Forest University in 1974 and obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree at the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1977; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of both the Basic and Advanced Courses of the Judge Advocate General's School, United States Army, Mr. Marshall served in the armed forces as an officer in the U.S. Army JAG Corps from 1977 until 1985; and

WHEREAS, upon the completion of his military service, Tom Marshall operated a private law practice from 1985 until 1986. In addition to his present position as District Public Defender, he has served as an adjunct professor of law at Roane State Community College since 2011; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded for his keen insight and legal experience, Mr. Marshall presently serves on the Tennessee Bar Association's Board of Governors, having previously served from 2004 until 2005, and is a member and past president of the Anderson County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Tom Marshall has rendered sterling service as a member of the Anderson County Community Corrections Advisory Board, the Anderson County Alternatives to Incarceration Committee, the Anderson County Drug Court Team, and the Anderson County Jail Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall has lent his time and talents to a number of charitable and community organizations, including Junior Achievement as an instructor, and is a past president of the Claxton Optimist Club, a former board chair of Anderson County Habitat for Humanity, and board member and president of ADFAC (Aid to Depressed Families of Appalachian Counties); and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of First Baptist Church, he has served as a deacon since 2004 and served as deacon chairman in 2010–2011; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marshall is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Pat, her two children, his two stepchildren with his late wife, Libby, and his five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, James T. Marshall has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar and bench, and his community alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend James T. Marshall for his meritorious service to the good people of the State of Tennessee as president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference 2014–2015 and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.